(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that there is no proposal under their consideration for allowing State Bank of India or other public sector banks to set up branches in Kathmandu.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Pepper Prices

814. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that prices of Pepper is falling in open market;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stops the fall in the prices;

(c) whether the Government have considered the demand of the pepper growers to set minimum price of pepper; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY-MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a decline in the prices of black pepper since October 1991.

(b) As a short terms measure, Government has announced suspension of cess on exports of pepper to GCA countries till 31st March 1992.

(c) and (d). A major factor in the decline of pepper prices has been the international oversupply situation. In such a situation, fixing support price by a single nation will not help.

[*Translation*]

Export of Meat to Indonesia

815. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the Minster of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of meat per month exported to Indonesia during 1990–91;

(b) whether Indonesia have since decided not to import meat from India;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the effect of this decision on the related industries in the country and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (e). Indonesia does not import meat from India. No meat was exported to Indonesia during 1990–91. Indonesia has made no change in this policy subsequently.

[*English*]

Procurement of Natural Rubber

816. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

the grade-wise quantity of natural rubber procured by State Trading Corporation in the year 1991 from the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): During the year 1991 STC procured following grade-wise quantities of natural rubber from the domestic market:-